

Columbine Genealogical & Historical Society Newsletter

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Columbine Genealogical and Historical Society Newsletter

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Our 51st Year!

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Margaret Jane Davis Duncan

By Ginger Van Zyl

When an *Ancestry* television ad asked "Who are the strong women in your family?" I considered all the strong pioneer female ancestors whose stories I have learned from my years of research. None were business women, none were politically active, none were known innovators or leaders. Nevertheless, several must have had the physical and mental strength to survive the rigors of frontier life. Let me tell you about one -- my great-great grandmother, Margaret Jane (Davis) Duncan. She was orphaned at 14. She married at 15 and she raised at least two of her brothers. Margaret bore 15 children and she lived on the frontier much of her life, with its attendant dangers and hard work. In spite of all those challenges, she lived to be 92.

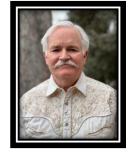
Margaret was born to George W. and Rachel Ann (Mahan) Davis on September 25, 1830, in Whitley County in southeastern Kentucky. Her parents had married on December 11, 1829 in Williamsburg, the county seat, and it is likely they continued to live in the general area. It was very much a frontier area and population was sparse. Whitley County and its parent Knox County to the north had begun to be settled about 1800. By 1830, Whitley County counted approximately 3,800 people in an area of 300,000 acres.

Nothing has been discovered about the parents, or other relatives, of either George or Rachel. To this day, Whitley County contains many Davis and several Mahan families. I have not been able to connect George Davis or Rachel Mahan to any of them.

Margaret's childhood was likely filled with chores and household tasks. As the oldest, she probably had increasing responsibilities as her younger siblings arrived on a regular basis. When Margaret was 12, shortly after the birth of her brother David, the family left Kentucky and moved to northern Missouri, again going to a frontier region. Several families from Whitley County were also moving to northern Missouri in the early 1840s. In 1841 the Duncan extended family from Whitley County, Kentucky, had settled in what was considered northern Missouri. The Davis family settled in 1842 nearby in Mercer County, Missouri. The two families likely knew each other in Kentucky; it's certain they did in Missouri.

Continued on Page 9

President's Message



By Sean McGuire

The year 2023 was challenging, for both me personally and for the Columbine Genealogical & Historical Society. Difficult for me because of my wife Maureen's end stage disease and death in August. Challenging for Columbine

because of difficulties achieving a quorum for Board of Directors meetings, filling positions by volunteers, and our declining membership.

Columbine has responded by reducing the number of members of the Board of Directors, changing Bylaws and Standing Rules, and adapting to the challenge of keeping track of our membership by purchasing software that will make some of our volunteers' lives easier. We've also found a new volunteer or two to fill some of our vacancies.

Please review the list of committees and see where you might help. You don't have to fill a position by yourself. Ask a friend to volunteer with you.

Genealogical groups have a built-in problem that some other organizations do not. The nature of searching for our families' histories attracts primarily older folks, partially because we retirees have more time, and partially because thinking about our ancestors seems to lend itself to those of us who have succeeded in taking care of our essential needs. Unfortunately (or not), our lives are finite. We value those from our ranks who have passed on, and hope we don't join them too soon.

Thank you to all of you who have served Columbine well. Happy hunting, Columbine members; let's have a productive year.

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CGHS



BOARD OF DIRECTORS – OFFICERS 2024

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Nancy Reubert & Neil Johnson

Columbine Meetings

Meeting Times: (except June, July, Aug. & Dec.)

Program Meetings 1:00 pm - 2nd Tuesday of the month - **In-Person & via Zoom** Meeting Place: Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, 8545 E Dry Creek Rd., Centennial, CO 80112

- In-person & via Zoom Meeting Place: Englewood Public Library, Anderson Room, 1000 Englewood Parkway, Englewood, 80110

Board of Directors Meetings 9:00 am - 2nd Tuesday of each month (except June, July & Dec.) via Zoom Columbine members are welcome to attend our board meetings.

Columbine Writers' Group10:00 am – 3rd Wednesday of the month via Zoom

Annual Dues: Individual - \$35.00 Couples - \$45.00

For more information about Columbine meetings, changes, additions or cancellations visit our website: www.columbinegenealogy.com Find news updates at: www.Facebook.com/ColumbineGenealogy/

BAD WEATHER PROCEDURE - If the President postpones a meeting due to an emergency or bad weather, the Publicity chair will send emails to members. Please do not call the Church office.

Tuesday January 9 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Finding the Family of Francis Fitzgerald (1903 – 1927) My Adventures Researching New York City Records and Data



Presenter – Sandy Ronayne is a past president of the Colorado Genealogical Society, past president of CGS/Computer Interest Group, past vice-president of the Wales, Ireland, Scotland, England Family History Society and past vice-president of the Council of Colorado Genealogical Societies. She is on the board of the Colorado Chapter Palatines to America, a member of the Toll Gate Creek Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), the Daughters of the Union, the First Families of Ohio, the Society of Civil War Families of Ohio and the Colorado Society of Mayflower Descendants. Sandy graduated from the University of Colorado Boulder with undergraduate and graduate degrees.

Description: A friend asked Sandy to get all she could regarding her grandmother Frances Fitzgerald Dowling. All the friend knew was that Frances died young and was married to a Harry Dowling. Her friend's mother dying young had not shared info regarding her mother. She thought Frances lived in New York City. Sandy told her friend that she did not research New York state or city. But Sandy jumped in and was able to identify Frances' family and many interesting facts (births, deaths, marriages, immigration, multiple births and more). Sandy has never presented this program before, but she loved it. Having no knowledge of NYC records after a few days she was to figure out the mystery. She will talk about NYC records and how to identify and get them. Sandy will also show how invaluable the state census records are.

> **In-Person and via Zoom** Location - Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, 8545 E. Dry Creek Road, Centennial 80112



Tuesday February 13 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Get Ready To Be A Detective: Searching For Your Adopted Child's Birth Parents

Presenter - Marylee Hagen is an experienced genealogist and a long time Columbine

Description: This presentation is dedicated to Marylee's daughter Cheryl. If only they had health records earlier in Cheryl's life, it would have saved them so many heartaches. She had to use many different techniques as her birth parents did not do DNA. Marylee's research techniques can also help in finding any lost person in your life.

In-Person Location - Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, 8545 E. Dry Creek Road, Centennial and via Zoom

Tuesday March 12 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Women's Lives In The British Isles and Ireland



Presenter – **Sylvia Tracy-Doolos** has over 40 years of genealogical experience as a researcher, teacher, lecturer, and writer. She is a member and officer of the Colorado Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists, the International Society of British Genealogy and Family History (ISBGFH), and Wales, Ireland, Scotland, England Family History Society (WISE-FHS), plus a member of the Colorado Genealogical Society and others. She has a BA in History with a minor focusing on linguistics to better understand the role of language change and its effect on record keeping.

Description: Understanding how to research our female ancestors begins with understanding the context of their lives. The goals of this program will be to provide you with some of the

legal, social and cultural variations that can help you with your research, as well as an understanding of what their lives may have been like. This information is pulled from a variety of sources that will be included in the handout.

In-Person and via Zoom Location - Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, 8545 E. Dry Creek Road, Centennial 80112



Education Previews





Presenter – **Eilene Lyon** will be presenting both the January 16th and February 20th programs. She immersed herself in American history from an early age, when her parents took her to iconic sites such as Williamsburg, Philadelphia and Gettysburg. She has been putting history into context through studying the lives of her ancestors for over 20 years. Her work has appeared in various history journals and can be found on her blog at Myricopia.com. She is the author of "Fortune's Frenzy: A California Gold Rush Odyssey" and "What Lies Beneath Colorado Cemeteries and Graveyards." She speaks on genealogy and family history writing at regional and national conferences. Eilene lives in Durango, CO.

Tuesday January 16 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Finding and Using Property Records and Maps for Genealogy

Description: See how land records and maps drive family history storytelling. Learn about various record types, where to find them and what information can be gleaned from them. Sometimes you will find much more than just property details: relationships between family members and neighbors, financial health, business information. Maps can help you visualize the context of your ancestor's lives. You may even discover that old family homes still exist!

Tuesday February 20 1:00 – 3:00 PM MT

The "Bounty" in Bounty Land Records

Description: Bounty lands have been issued to veterans dating back to the Revolution. Learn about the history of these records. How to request them and what types of documentation these files contain. Understand that land patent records often have different warrant holders and patent recipients, and why. Bounty land files can fill in gaps in military service records and offer clues about family relationships. They can even contain physical descriptions and other genealogical data.

In-person and via Zoom

Location - Englewood Public Library, Anderson Room, 1000 Englewood Parkway, Englewood, CO 80110

Tuesday

March 19

1:00 - 3:00 PM

Genealogy sourcing and other things I have learned over 30 plus years of researching



Presenter – **Beverly Harbourt** grew up in Lincoln, Nebraska and attended the University of Nebraska. She is the past President of the Swedish Genealogical Society of Colorado (SGSC), an SGSC mentor, and an avid researcher of her Swedish and German roots. As SGSC Project Chair, she headed a project for SGSC involving the digitization of Swedish American church records in Colorado and the indexing of some digitized church records. She is the custodian of her family's historical photographs and some of the family heirlooms. Beverly has been researching her ancestors for over 30 years and continues to learn new techniques and research tips.

Description: Over my thirty plus years of genealogy research, my research techniques have evolved. This presentation is designed to provide you with some of my "lessons learned" that work for researchers regardless of your experience level. I will mainly focus on the what, why, and how of genealogy sourcing; touch on what a GEDcom is and how you create and/or use one; and hopefully provide a few helpful suggestions to aid your research.

Thank You To Our Fall 2023 Speakers



Greg Liverman Breaking Down Brick Walls With Reason & Logic 9/12/23



Barbara Elliott **Expand Your Genealogy Research** 9/6//23 & 9/13/23



& Jean Adams



Roger Dudley How Karval, Colorado Got Its Name 11/14/23



Mark Olsen Introduction to Family Tree Maker 9/19//23



Gail Beaton Colorado's Rosie The Riveter 12/12/23



Marylee Hagen Following Your Ancestor's **Footsteps** 10/10/23



Julie Miller Advanced Research On Passenger Lists 10/17/23

COLUMBINE'S DECEMBER 12th MEETING



What should we choose first? Cheryl Floberg, Sandy Ronayne, Shirley Stertz & Dotty Burdick



Julie Haynie has many choices to make



Speaker
Gail Beaton
talks about
Colorado's
Rosie The
Riverter's
exeriences
during
WWII



The choices are so delicious!

Marge Healy, Heidi Maughan,

Linda McNeal



Nancy & Tex Reupert, Heidi Maughan, Linda McNeal & Marge Healy enjoy the speaker



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Steve Asay has been doing a lot of research in New Jersey and Philadelphia PA. He is particularly interested in finding the first Acey ancestor to come to North America during the revolutionary war times. Steve thinks there could be a difference in the spelling of the surname, but they probably came from England. Most people pronounce his surname like "AC."

Linda and Joe Kapke are not new to genealogy. Linda is interested digitizing her mother's genealogical research, scanning old photos and preserving the original documents her mother collected. Joe's grandparents immigrated from Slovenia, and he has done research in the church records in Slovenia.

Ann Kerr is helping her husband search for his father's birth parents. They have encountered the usual roadblocks like not finding an original birth certificate. Her ancestral family has ties to Canada. She has information about her grandmother's French Canadian father. Later her family lived in Massachusetts in the 1850s.

Dyna Lumpkin is researching surnames Lumpkin and Saine. She wants to explore her grandfather's Indian heritage and prove that his surname was Ralston and not Saine since he was never legally adopted. Locations she is researching include Oklahoma, Kansas and Colorado.

Nick Nonas and Edy Hughes are new members who are working on Nick's Greek ancestors. His father worked on the building of the Panama Canal and married his mother (also Greek) in an arranged marriage in Iowa in 1937. Nick hopes to find all the documentation for their civil ceremony so that he and his children can apply for dual citizenship.

Janet Robertson is researching four surnames: Fritz, Enger, Russell (Rosel) and Robertson. She says that if you have a Fritz surname in your tree from Durand, Wisconsin, you are probably related to her. These lines are predominantly Swedish, Norwegian and German ancestors.

Gary Witt has already done some genealogical research. His surnames of interest include his four grandparents (WITT, IZZARD, VANSCOYK, and HYLEN) and his wife's four grandparents (LINGLE, PREBLE, SPRINGER, and TURNER). He writes: "I am not actually sure of the country of origin for three of the four family groups. The VanScoyks are most certainly Dutch and the Turners are most likely English. The Witts and Lingles are probably Germanic. Although there is lore regarding the original immigrant Witt being a French Huguenot??"

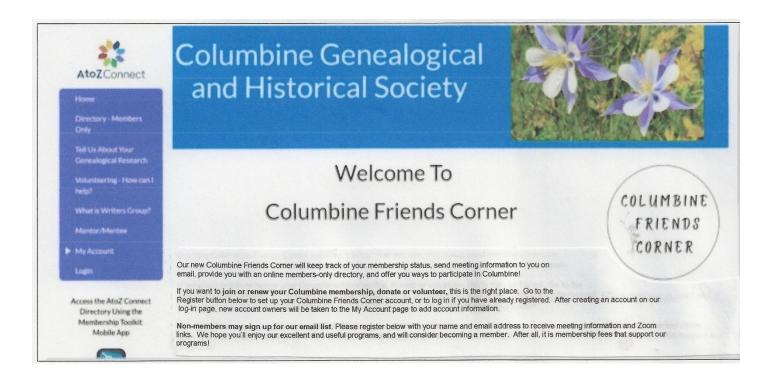
A NOTE FROM YOUR EDITOR

Jeanie Ouellette

This is your newsletter and we hope you are enjoying it. But like most things improvement can be made. We would like to know if you have any ideas, suggestions for articles or comments. Please send them to www.columbinegenealogy.com and they will be considered for future newsletters. Don't be shy!

And to all those who have contributed to our newsletter a big THANK YOU! Your participation helps to create an interesting newsletter. Perhaps you have a genealogy article that you feel will be of interest to our membership. Maybe you would like to share your research or you have solved a brick wall or took a trip to meet a family connection or a facility.

The submission deadline for April's newsletter is March 1. Hope to hear from you.



COLUMBINE FRIENDS CORNER

If you haven't already logged in to our new Membership Software, "Columbine Friends Corner", we urge you to try it. You'll find our up-to-date searchable Member Directory, as well as volunteer opportunities and the ability to join or to renew your membership. Over time, we will add other fun things.

Having this on-line database format allows us to easily create membership and financial reports, making board responsibilities much simpler and more accurate. In our Volunteer module, members can sign up to volunteer for a role that fits their interests. It is also being used to add mentor/mentee relationships when requested.

Check out the section called "Tell Us About Your Genealogical Research". Someone in Friends Corner might be researching in the same area or the same surnames. When you add locations in the U.S., be specific and list county and state if known.

Columbine Friends Corner has more un-tapped features for future use. We will be able to charge for seminars/special programs, sell special goods using the inventory management system, conduct quizzes or trivia contests, and to manage Special Interest Groups.

WRITER'S GROUP



COLUMBINE

Start 2024 off with a commitment to start writing your ancestor's story. Join Columbine's Writer's Group. Share your stories and benefit from the group's discussions on how to develop a story. You don't need to submit a story each month. The group meets on the

third Wednesday of the month at 10:00 via Zoom. Contact Becky Clark via www.columbinegenealogy.com if you would like to see what Writer's Group is about.

Margaret Jane David Duncan

By Ginger Van Zyl

continued from page 1

In 1844, when Margaret was barely 14, her mother Rachel delivered her ninth child November 8, 1844. The baby boy, who survived, was named Green L. Davis. However, Rachel died from childbirth complications. No doubt Margaret had to take over the running of the house and the care of the infant and her younger brothers.

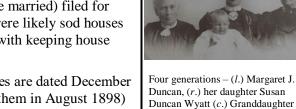
Her father George Davis kept the family together on the farm, as well as participating in the community. The next fall, records show George was sworn in for jury duty on September 15, 1845. But, tragically, soon after that he died very suddenly. The probate entry is dated September 29, 1845, barely two weeks later. The nine orphaned children subsequently were parceled out among relatives and friends in the community. The probate record includes a list of all the children and their exact birth dates. This has enabled me to discover additional information about the lives of some Davis children in addition to family and public records about my great-great grandmother Margaret.

Margaret may have gone to live with the Duncan family. A few months later, she married John DeKalb [DeCalb, Caleb] Duncan, age 24, on May 2, 1846. He had land just north of what would later be determined as the Iowa state line and near the future town of Lineville, Iowa. Family lore has said she helped raise three or four of her brothers. The only documentation I have of that is the 1850 census which lists two of her brothers living with her and her husband John. By that time, they also have two little girls of their own.

Margaret would seem to have followed in her mother's footsteps, but with a much more favorable outcome. She bore 15 children over a period of 31 years, with the last born in 1877. There were 11 girls and 4 boys. Two of the daughters died in infancy.

In spite of the very large family, these must have been good years for Margaret. John was apparently a successful farmer and large landowner. The 1870 census shows John's land valued at \$7,200 and his personal property at \$3,500. But in the mid-1880s, when Margaret was in her late fifties and John in his sixties, they faced a serious challenge. Family lore says John guaranteed a large loan for a friend. The friend defaulted and John had to sell his land to pay off the loan.

One of their daughters, Susan, and her husband William Wyatt were moving west to the panhandle of Nebraska. Land was available for homesteading in newly formed Banner County. John and Margaret and some of their younger children moved across the prairie to start a new life. John and three sons (two of whom were married) filed for homestead land between 1886 and 1889. The houses they built were likely sod houses or dugout houses. Margaret surely faced new challenges coping with keeping house there on the windswept prairie.





Descendants Mary Richards Blackburn and Ginger Blackburn Van Zyl – 1982 Duncan (new Big Horn) Cemetery, Banner Co., Nebraska

Ironically, John's land patent certificates are dated December 1898 (though the land office recorded them in August 1898) only days before he died on December 25, 1898. Margaret

and her nearby family buried him in the Duncan Cemetery, a small plot of their land set aside for a family cemetery. She would live for another 25 years, staying with various children.

In 1900 Margaret was living with her son Harvey and his family. In 1902 Margaret moved with Harvey and his family to Washington State, where she was listed with Harvey and her youngest son George on the 1910 census. She may have been with her daughter Alice Duncan Hammond at Sheridan, Wyoming, at some point. We know that she was with

her daughter Ella Duncan Casey back in Wayne County, Iowa, when she died July 4, 1923. She was buried in the Casey family cemetery in Allerton, Iowa.

Family Portrait of the Margaret and John D. Duncan Family probably taken in the early 1880s.





They needed two sittings to include this large family.

Essie Wyatt Dick & Her baby





Dorothy Jean (Dorry) Rice was born on May 28, 1933 in Omaha, Nebraska. She attended Stephens College and graduated from the University of Colorado with a BFA. She married Roger Rice in 1954 and had four children. Living in Centennial, CO since 1958, she returned to CU to earn a MA teaching degree and taught elementary school in Littleton. Dorry lived a full life traveling to all but one continent and was active in her church Littleton United Methodist and DAR. Dorry was known for her caring and generous spirit. She enjoyed watercolor painting, reading, family genealogies and published a volume of poetry. In her earlier years she was an active member of Columbine Genealogical and Historical Society. She joined the Writer's Group and shared many of her poems and memories of her childhood. She moved to Council Bluffs, Iowa to be close to her brother. Dorry passed away September 19, 2023 in Omaha, Nebraska at the age of 90.



Margaret Weiland was born January 28, 1927 in Denver, Colorado. She attended CO State University and University of Denver earning a Bachelor in Home Economics in 1949. She later returned to the University of Northern Colorado to earn her Masters in Arts in 1979. She taught home economics at Smiley Junior High and later taught Gourmet and Foreign Foods to adults at the Emily Griffith Opportunity School. Margaret was a consultant for DuPont, McCall's Pattern Company, Doncaster Clothing and West Bend Kitchen Appliances. She participated in many organizations and was a member of many committees which were close to her heart. Margaret was a 1973 Permanent Charter Member of Columbine. Margaret passed away November 20, 2023 at the age of 96.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Columbine Genealogy and Historical Society or St. John Vianney Seminary.



"Remember" is the theme of RootsTech 2024 and we are on a mission to help inspire people all over the world to remember and share the precious moments and people that shape their lives.

Come in person February 20 – March 2, to experience: 250+ exclusive sessions only available in Salt Lake City 120+ exhibitors/sponsors in the Expo Hall Be the first to learn of industry innovations Feel the energy of live keynote sessions on the main state Develop new friendships and reunite with old friends Get personalized help at the FamilySearch library

(As it will appear in the Membership Directory)

MEMBER NAME (1): _

GROW COLUMBINES!

Renew your membership and help grow Columbine Genealogical and Historical Society! And receive a packet of genuine Colorado columbine seeds to grow!



NEW OR RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP FORM

COLUMBINE GENEALOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC. P.O. BOX 2074, CENTENNIAL, CO 80121-2074

ADDRESS:	
	STATE:ZIP:
EMAIL ADDRESS (1):	PHONE (1):
EMAIL ADDRESS (2):	PHONE (2):
WHAT SURNAMES ARE YOU R	RESEARCHING?
WHAT LOCATIONS ARE YOU	RESEARCHING?
pportunities for you to help this so	ociety (check all that apply):
☐ Teaching Research Skills	□ Event/Meeting Photography
☐ Greeters/Zoom/Hosts	□ Special Projects
☐ Hospitality/Refreshments	□ Newsletter Articles
□ Library Acquisitions	□ Signs, Computer Graphics
☐ Facebook Editors/Contributors	□ Website
□ Volunteer Coordination	☐ Equipment/Hybrid Meeting Set Up
New or Renewing Membership By joining anytime after June 1 st your m	nembership will be active until December 31 of the following year.
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES (for	the Calendar Year) For Membership Committee Use Only
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Please make your check payable to CGHS or Columbine Genealogical & Historical Society and mail to CGHS, P O Box 2074, Centennial, CO 80161-2074 - OR - go to the CGHS website: https://columbinegenealogy.com/ for information on how to pay your dues using your credit card.

VIRTUALLY ALL IMMIGRANTS DURING THE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURIES ARRIVED IN AMERICA THROUGH ONE OF 8 MAJOR PORTS.

- 1. New York: Castle Garden, New York's first official immigration station, was established in 1855. The famed Ellis Island would eventually take over New York immigration in 1892.
- 2. **Boston:** Boston immigration started off slowly, but it picked up speed with the Irish potato famine. Subsidized immigration appealed to many suffering because of the famine, and many stayed in Boston with no means of traveling further.
- 3. **Philadelphia:** Ironically, most immigrants that settled in Philadelphia didn't arrive through Philadelphia's port of entry. Most that settled there came from the New York port of entry, located just 90 miles away.
- 4. **Baltimore:** Locust Point became an official port of entry in 1706, but it wasn't until 1868 that the immigration pier was built in preparation to connect the port of entry to the B&O Railroad.
- 5. **San Francisco:** As the largest port on the western coast, San Francisco's **Angel Island** was nicknamed the Ellis Island of the west, despite seeing far fewer immigrants pass through it than the actual Ellis Island.
- 6. **Charleston:** Charleston became a port of entry in 1682, but the port was better known as a hub for trade in the south.
- 7. **New Orleans:** Immigration through New Orleans peaked in the early 1800s, processing over 550,000 immigrants in that time. However, the Civil War blocked immigration through New Orleans, and it never picked up again.
- 8. **Galveston:** Between 1865 and 1924, about 200,000 immigrants came through Galveston to enter the United States. The immigration station in Galveston was officially established in 1906, only a few years after a hurricane devastated the area. Between 1906 and 1914, another 50,000 immigrations came to the U.S. through this Texas port of entry.

Excerpt from Family Search Blog 8/10/2023



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